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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Wizow Chemical Plant and Anhydrate Deposits

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

1. The Wizow Chemical Plant (Chemiczne Zaklady Wizow) was located at Wizow (Wisau), a very small town near Bolkenhain /5055N-1606E/. The plant began operation on 22 July 1951. This plant was to use anhydrates in place of pyrites for the production of sulphuric acid, utilizing a new method invented by Karl Ackerman, the Deputy Minister of the Chemical Industry. (Vice Minister Przemysly Chemicznego) since its creation in 1951. Ackerman held a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Cracow, was about 43 years old, and was an old-line Communist.

2. The Wizow Chemical Plant was expected to be the largest producer of sulphuric acid in Poland, but although the plant was opened well over a year ago, production may still be in experimental stages, due to the great size of the operation.

3. Large anhydrate deposits, located at Nowy Lad between Loewenberg /5107N -1535E/ and Greiffenberg /5102N - 1525E/ and about 40 km. northwest of Jelenia Gora (Hirschberg) /5055N - 1544E/ were to serve as the source of raw materials for the Wizow Chemical Plant. The estimated size of the deposits was around 100 million tons. Anhydrate is gypsum stone without crystallic water ($CaSO_4$), and since hydrous calcium sulphate can also be used for the production of sulphuric acid and gypsum deposits are plentiful in Poland (especially along the valley of the Nida River), this new use of gypsum stone was especially pleasing to the Polish Government. Other chemicals may be used, however, in the production of sulphuric acid, such as hydrous calcium sulphate.

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4. The Germans utilized the above mentioned anhydrate quarry at Nowy Lad during WW II, and a rumor was in circulation at that time that the Germans had built an underground factory in the quarry.
25X1 [redacted] deep shafts, 20 to 40 m deep, leading down to the quarry bottom, which was an area of about 6,000 m square. During WW II about 10 thousand Soviet war prisoners were forced to work in this quarry. No one ever saw them leave the quarry. Although I did not see an underground quarry, an underground factory could easily have been built here, for anhydrate is very hard and would readily lend itself to such a project.

25X1 5. [redacted] in 1948-1949, about 2,500 tons of anhydrate was produced from this quarry per year; however, with proper facilities,
25X1 [redacted] 100 thousand tons per month could be mined.

6. A small railroad station, which was equipped with temporary ramps and with a loading capacity of eight to 10 carloads, was located at the deposits. 25X1

[redacted]

8. Anhydrate was also exported to Czechoslovakia on two occasions; in amounts of 11 and 15 thousand tons, [redacted] 25X1 Two years ago, however, all anhydrate export was stopped in anticipation of its new use in the production of sulphuric acid.

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